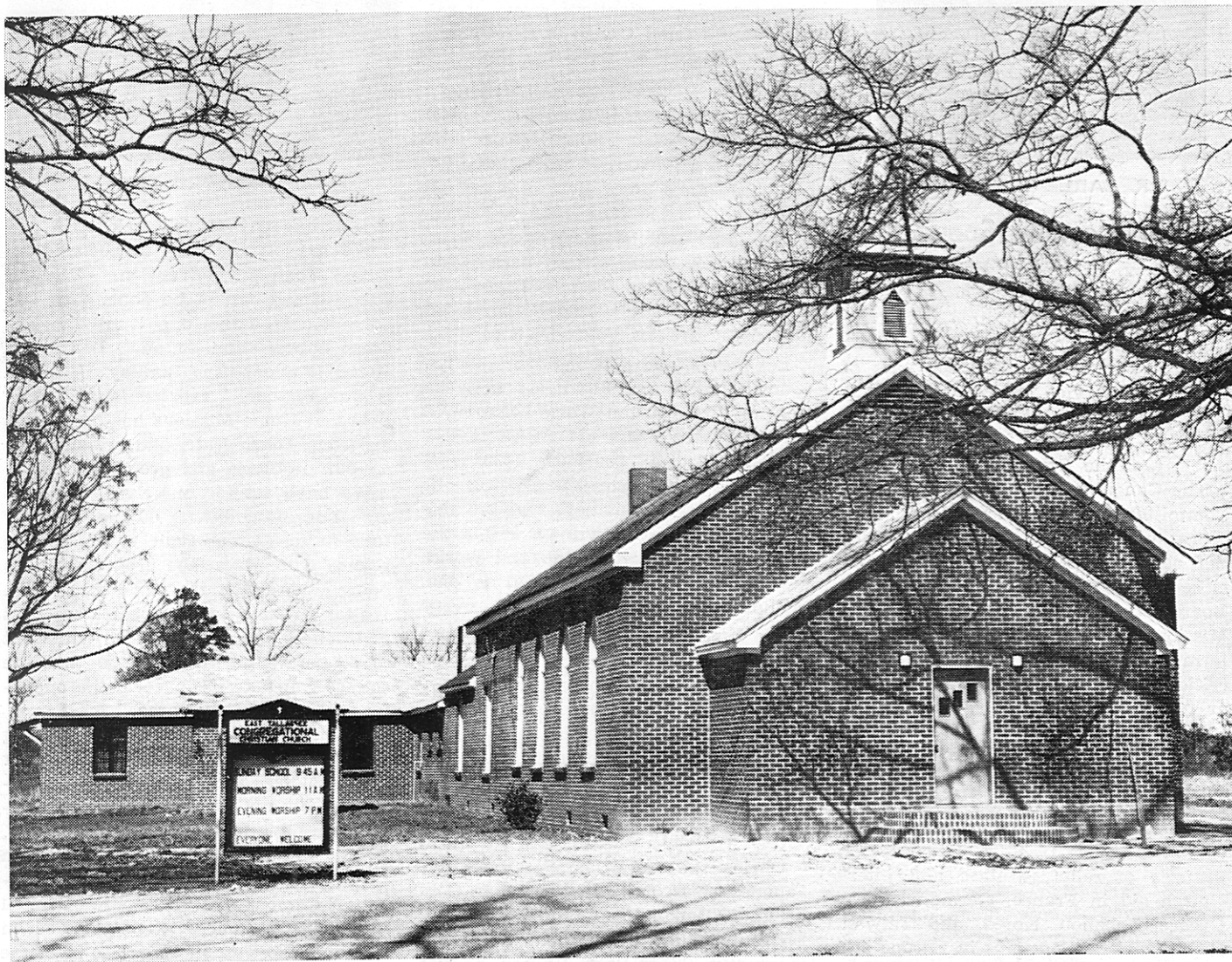


The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 6

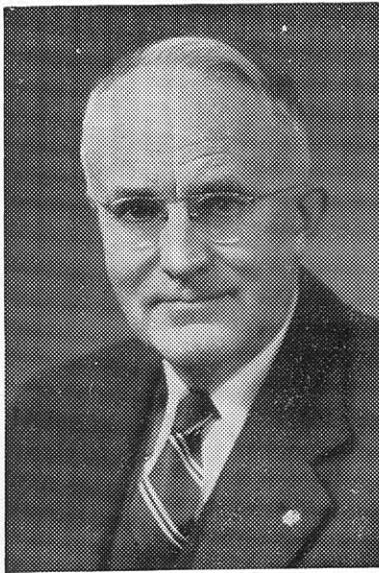
APRIL 1959



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

East Tallassee, Alabama

1959 SOUTHEAST CONVENTION ISSUE



DR. EARLE H. BALLOU

The Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Earle Hoit Ballou, executive secretary of the Congregational Christian Service Committee and internationally known churchman with a background of more than 30 years of missionary service in China, is the guest speaker on "OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION" for the annual meeting of the Convention.

The Congregational Christian Service Committee is the agency of the Congregational Christian Churches for Relief and Reconstruction. It works in close cooperation with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and renders mobile short-term emergency service in areas of critical need regardless of race, creed or nationality.

It cooperates with the World Council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service of Refugees, and is a member agency of Church World Service, a department of the National Council of Churches in the U. S. A. It carries on projects of relief, welfare and inter-church aid in France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Korea, and Taiwan. It promotes work-camps in Europe and this country and has helped to resettle thousands of displaced persons and refugees.

Born in Vermont, Dr. Ballou was educated at Vermont Academy, Yale University, and Hartford Theological Seminary. He holds a D. D. from Middlebury College.

Dr. Ballou first went to China under the American Board in 1916. In the years that followed he gave much time

Report Of The Southeast Convention Moderator

A year ago when elected Moderator, I felt a deep sense of responsibility; particularly as the first woman elected to that office.

Thanks to an efficient staff — Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr. and the Reverend Miss Annie R. Campbell, the Moderator's primary task has been to preside at called Board of Directors meetings. The Board has been a most conscientious group of representatives and I wish to express my personal thanks to them for their interest and attendance.

Superintendent Lightbourne is due much appreciation for the work he does in the Convention. Especially today, I am most grateful to him for the fine editing of the SOUTHEAST NEWS. I have just read a year's work, issue by issue, and found it very valuable to me in getting a resume of our work for the past year. You would be surprised how many articles you missed reading.

Let me remind you again of the responsibility of the Southeast Convention to Our Christian World Mission. In the October issue of SOUTHEAST NEWS, suggested goals for 1959 were listed church by church. This is our most important function. Upon this hinges our Christian witness within the church, community, nation and world. Our Christian World Mission is one. Without the cooperation of every

to famine, flood and war relief work in cooperation with the Chinese churches. He also served for a time as Secretary for the National Christian Council of China, an interdenominational organization of Chinese churches similar to the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

During the early years of the Sino-Japanese War, Dr. Ballou lived in China under Japanese military occupation. En route to the United States for furlough just before Pearl Harbor, he was interned for 21 months by the Japanese military in Manila.

From 1944 to 1946 he was executive secretary, in New York, of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China. After two more years in China and a similar period on the staff of the American Board in Boston he accepted his present post with the Congregational Christian Service Committee in 1950.



MRS. ARNOLD SLATER

church this witness is weakened.

We are on the way to becoming a self-supporting convention. Without your help, it cannot be done.

Let me take this opportunity to express appreciation to our Board of Home Missions. Dr. Stanley U. North is our regional representative. The Board of Home Missions has been most generous, considerate, and patient with all our problems and growing pains.

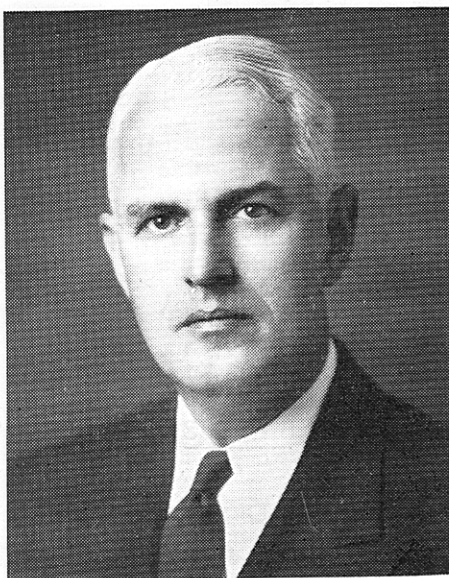
We have set for ourselves this year a goal of one dollar (\$1.00) per member for Southern Union College. I know you rejoice with me at the progress that is being made under the leadership of Dr. Walter Graham and his dedicated corps of teachers and workers. You will want to cooperate in this plan so that the college can take its place in the opportunity it has in this area.

We are looking forward to hearing Dr. Earle H. Ballou, who will deliver the keynote address and bring us up-to-date on our work of Relief and Rehabilitation around the world.

Now we are to be challenged even further by our Christian Higher Education Campaign. Our General Council in Boston in June voted to raise seven and one-half million dollars to meet the

(Continued on Next Page)

Rev. John Crutcher, pastor of our CC church at Farmer City, Ill., will conduct revival services at Lanett May 10-15. Services will be held in the Lanett Church each morning at 10 and each night at 7:30. Mr. Crutcher was formerly pastor of First Church, Phenix City, Ala.



REV. FREDERICK A. MEYER

MODERATOR'S REPORT . . .

(Continued)

denomination's needs and opportunities. During this Convention you will hear our Regional Director of the campaign, the Reverend Frederick A. Meyer, speak for this need and we shall consider our goal.

I trust you will give this your prayerful consideration and vote.

In closing, I wish to express to everyone, ministers and churchmen, the Convention's gratitude for your cooperation. It takes much thought, prayer and effort to make an effective witness.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Arnold Slater
Moderator
Southeast Convention

Because of the difficulty in finding free nights for meetings of church organizations, the Daisy and Soddy Churches in Tennessee are planning "church nights" on which several groups will meet. "Carry-In Suppers" are planned for the occasions.

NOTICE

The Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama, will have a special service to lay the cornerstone of its new building on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd, 3:30 p. m. (CST) at the site of the new building — 3801 Montclair Rd., Mountain Brook, Birmingham 9, Alabama. A cordial invitation is extended to all friends of the church to attend.

Christian Higher Education Fund Congregational Christian Project

Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, former minister of the Mayflower Community Congregational Church of Minneapolis, Minn., is the Central Regional Director of the Christian Higher Education Fund of the Congregational Christian Churches.

The Christian Higher Education Fund is sponsored jointly by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches to strengthen the denomination's higher education interests in the United States and 14 countries abroad. The fund seeks to raise \$7,500,000 within the next two years to be used for purposes of theological education, scholarships, campus ministries in state and private institutions, and college plant facilities and equipment.

The Southeast Convention has not taken official action on this denominational project which has been voted by the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches.

Following Mr. Meyer's presentation about the Christian Higher Education Fund the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Convention will be presented for action.

The Southern Union College will be one of the institutions to be aided by the funds raised in this project.

Mr. Meyer served as minister of the Mayflower Church from 1951 to 1958, when he resigned to accept the position with the Christian Higher Education Fund. He has served Congregational Christian Churches in Rockville Center, New York, and Newport, Vermont.

He has been president of the Minneapolis Ministerial Association and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Congregational Conference.

Mr. Meyer is also a member of the Committee on Solicitation and Disbursement of Funds of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Meyer will assist the superintendents of 12 of the denomination's state and regional conferences including the Southeast Convention. His offices are in Minneapolis. Mr. Meyer will address the convention on Saturday afternoon.



WILLIAM E. PETERSON

National Laymen's Director Present For Annual Banquet

Mr. William E. Peterson, Director of the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, will be present for the annual banquet of the Churchmen's Fellowship.

At the banquet Mr. Peterson will present information concerning the national project of the Laymen's Fellowship. The laymen's organizations throughout the denomination have voted to give financial support to the TV program — "OFF TO ADVENTURE." This is a special television series for children.

The series has programs on the "North American Indian", "Japan", and "Our North American Neighbors". Each of the series is available to local TV stations.

The quota for the laymen of the Southeast Convention toward the national goal of \$25,000 is \$300. It is anticipated that this amount can be raised soon by the laymen's groups in this area.

Before accepting the position of chief executive of the Laymen's Fellowship, Mr. Peterson was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Laymen's Fellowship. He succeeds Dr. Walter A. Graham, who resigned in 1957 and accepted the presidency of the Southern Union College.

Mr. Peterson works in close relationship with Dr. Kenneth Kohler, who is the chief executive of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Miss Anderson is driving her familiar station wagon which is her "home on wheels." With her is her pet parakeet, "Peter."

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor
Rev. Annie Campbell Photographer
Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

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Volume VII April 1959 Number 6

"DO YOU SUBSCRIBE?"

If THE SOUTHEAST NEWS is to be an effective organ to inform the people of the churches of the Southeast Convention of activities and programs and news throughout the convention and the national fellowship, to promote the program of the convention and the common interests of the churches and to foster closer fellowship among the people and the churches, its list of subscribers must grow.

Local churches can be of great help by designating a person within the membership to secure subscriptions to The Southeast News.

When 10% of the membership of a church subscribes, the cost is just \$1.00 per subscription per year. Every church is urged to make the effort to secure subscriptions from 10% of its members.

During this annual meeting, during the fall association and conference meetings, and during any of the meetings or rallies of the women's, churchmen's and young people's groups, the special rate of \$1.00 per year is in effect.

We do not have many subscribers to THE UNITED CHURCH HERALD throughout the Southeast Convention. This is an excellent magazine, published by our national fellowship. Through it we can become informed about our work at home and abroad. Through it we are introduced to the people of our fellowship in our own land and around the world. The subscription rate is \$2.50 per year.

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1958 - December 31, 1958

RECEIPTS

Bank Balance as of January 1, 1958	\$ 4,001.63
Board of Home Missions appro. to Budget	15,865.42
Board of Home Missions, Student Summer Service	800.00
Miscellaneous Receipts, Budgeted	2,217.59
OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION	
Central Alabama Association	\$ 398.77
East Alabama Association	6,260.86
North Alabama Association	1,659.15
S. Alabama-N. W. Florida Assoc.	1,301.51
Georgia - S. C. Conference	8,984.59
Kentucky - Tennessee Conf.	8,164.28

\$26,769.16

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS UNBUDGETED

Board of Home Missions Church Aid	\$18,408.33
For Veterans of the Cross	560.62
For Southern Union College	1,415.20
For Cong'l. Christian Foundation	560.00
Per Capita Dues 1958	1,569.72
Miscellaneous Accounts	3,222.61

25,736.48

Plus Salary Deductions

568.69

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$75,958.97

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	\$11,801.91
Office Supplies	988.43
Office Rent, Telephone and Telegraph	885.12
Travel (Supt. and Min. Christian Ed.)	4,650.13
Board of Directors	958.75
Committees	495.42
Parsonage Note, Int. & Upkeep	1,370.90
Promotion	34.71
Southeast News	1,312.98
Student Summer Service Program	970.64
Miscellaneous Budgeted Accounts	6,886.26
Aid to Churches	7,877.19
National Boards & Agencies (OCWM)	7,550.91

\$45,783.35

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS UNBUDGETED

Bd. Home Missions Aid to Churches	18,558.31
Southern Union College from Churches	1,219.55
Congregational Christian Foundation	560.00
Per Capita Dues to General Council, 1958	1,939.48
Miscellaneous Accounts	3,951.42

\$26,228.86

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$72,012.21

RECAPITULATION

Total Receipts	\$75,958.97
Total Disbursements	72,012.21
Balance Dec. 31, 1958	\$3,946.76

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Strickland, Treasurer

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc.

APRIL 18 - 19, 1959

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

East Tallassee, Alabama

The Convention Hymn: "Forward through the Ages"

The Convention Theme: "Bound by God's Far Purpose"

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 18th (Central Standard Time)

- 10:30 A. M. Call to Order: Mrs. Arnold Slater, Moderator
Invocation: The Chaplain, Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin
Hymn: "Forward through the Ages"
Welcome: Mr. Bobby Jack Pemberton, Moderator of the Host Church
Honorable R. C. Billings, Mayor of Tallassee, Alabama
Adoption of the Program
Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and Visitors
- 10:45 A. M. Presentation of Minutes of the 1958 Annual Meeting
The Report of the Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Strickland
The Report of the Moderator, Mrs. Pauline W. Slater
The Report of the Minister of Christian Education, Rev. Annie R. Campbell
The Report of the Superintendent, Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr.
The Appointment of Committees
Business Committee
Resolutions Committee
The "Southeast News", Mrs. Jettie Logan
- 12:15 P. M. Service of Worship: The Chaplain, Rev. C. W. Baldwin
- 12:30 P. M. Recess for Lunch
- 1:30 P. M. Call to Order: The Moderator, Mrs. Slater
Worship Service: The Chaplain, Mr. Baldwin
- 1:45 P. M. Action on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments
"The United Church Herald", Mrs. Jettie Logan
The Report of the Nominating Committee
- 2:30 P. M. The Church Builder's Club: Rev. D. Herbert Long, President
- 2:50 P. M. Hymn

- 2:55 P. M. Address: "Responsibilities Unlimited"
Dr. Earle H. Ballou, Executive Secretary, the Congregational Christian Service Committee
- 3:45 P. M. Report of the Southern Union College:
Dean A. R. Van Cleave
Report of the Congregational Christian Foundation:
Chairman Arnold Slater
- 4:15 P. M. The Christian Higher Education Fund:
Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Regional Director
The Recommendations of the Board of Directors
- 5:15 P. M. The Election of Officers
- 5:30 P. M. Recess
- 7:00 P. M. Women's Fellowship Banquet: Carrville Methodist Church
Mrs. Jettie Logan, President
Churchmen's Fellowship Banquet: East Tallassee Clubhouse
A. B. Snell, President

Sunday, April 19th

- 9:00 A. M. Call to Order: The Moderator, Mrs. Slater
Worship Service: The Chaplain, Mr. Baldwin
- 9:15 A. M. Committee Reports
Christian Education and Youth Work: Mrs. Raymond Berry
Evangelism: Rev. Carroll W. Lewis
Ministry and Churches: Rev. A. R. Van Cleave
Stewardship and Missionary Education: Rev. Charles W. Bell
Survey and Church Aid: Rev. Arnold Slater
Christian Social Action: Rev. W. Raymond Berry
- 10:30 A. M. Recess
- 11:00 A. M. Service of Worship: Rev. Carl J. Landes
Sermon: "Too Light A Thing": Dr. Earle H. Ballou
- 12:15 P. M. Dinner
- 1:15 P. M. Call to Order: The Moderator, Mrs. Slater
Reports from the Fellowships
Women's Fellowship: Mrs. Jettie Logan, President
Pilgrim Fellowship: Melvyn Roquemore, Past President
Churchmen's Fellowship: A. B. Snell, President
Miscellaneous Business
Business Committee
Report of Resolutions Committee
Installation of Officers and Committees
The Memorial Silence
The Observance of the Lord's Supper: Rev. C. W. Baldwin
- 3:00 P. M. Final Adjournment

The Report Of The Superintendent

This written report is a supplement to the remarks I will make in my verbal report to the convention. It is designed to call your attention to certain facts and figures concerning the Southeast Convention and its churches.

Twenty years ago (1938) there were 142 churches in the conferences and associations now represented in the convention. These churches had a total membership of 10,068. The average membership per church was 71.

As of December 31, 1958, there were 119 churches in the Southeast Convention with a total membership of 9,582. The average membership per church is 81. 93 of the churches have a membership of less than 100. 4 have a membership of more than 250 and 1 has a membership of more than 500.

These figures indicate that over the years we have lost churches. Some have died. Some have united with other denominations. These figures also indicate that the great majority of our churches have gained very little in membership. This is distressing in view of the fact that the major denominations represented in the South have increased both in the number of churches and in total membership over the same period of years.

Sunday schools were reported by 104 of the churches. The total Sunday school enrollment is 6,134. Consider this figure in comparison with the fact that 28 Daily Vacation Bible Schools were held with a total enrollment of 1302. Does this not indicate that the DVBS is a sound way to build the Sunday School?

44 Young People's Organizations were reported by the churches. The total membership in these organizations is 902. Great progress is being made in this area, but far more of our churches must awaken to the need to develop a program of service to young people. The future of the churches depends to a great extent upon their ministry to youth.

The financial side of the picture is a bit brighter. Look at the figures below:

Year	OCWM	Home Expenses
1938	\$ 3,985	\$ 81,450
1954	14,590	276,919
1958	27,015	351,170

In 1938 the annual average gift per member to OCWM was 40c and for home expenses \$8. These have increased

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

The officers of the Convention shall be the Moderator, Moderator Elect, Registrar, Treasurer, and Superintendent.

TO BE AMENDED TO READ:

The officers of the Convention shall be the Moderator, Moderator Elect, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, and Superintendent.

SECTION 3. REGISTRAR

REGISTRAR shall be deleted. The new Section 3 shall read:

SECTION 3. RECORDING SECRETARY

The Recording Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year and shall faithfully keep

to \$2.80 for OCWM (Our Christian World Mission — Apportionment) and \$36 for home expenses in 1958.

In addition, in 1958 the churches reported a total in "Other Gifts" of \$6,348 to Congregational Christian enterprises and \$3,460 to other benevolent enterprises.

In order to maintain our "Program of Progress" our giving to Our Christian World Mission must increase a minimum of \$3,000 per year. The increase of 1958 over 1957 was \$2,951.

Of the 119 churches 97 are presently being served by pastors, 3 by part-time supplies, 4 churches are inactive and 15 churches are without a pastor. We need more ministers available for service in the churches.

Within the Southeast Convention there are 103 ministers in full standing. Of these 50 are pastors. The average salary for ministers giving full time to the pastorate is \$4,339 (this includes base salary, annuity payments by churches, automobile expense allowances, rental allowances, other expense items). There are 31 pastoral units served by ministers giving full time to the pastorate. The majority of the churches are served by ministers engaged also in other gainful employment.

36 churches report ownership of parsonages. The total valuation of church property for the convention is \$3,081,100.

Much progress has been made in the past. Greater progress must and can be made in the future.

all the records and minutes of the Convention and Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. SUPERINTENDENT

The following shall be added to the last paragraph of this Section:

The Superintendent shall serve as Registrar of the Convention and shall be responsible for gathering the statistics of the Convention for the Year Book and keep an accurate listing of all churches and ministers of the Convention.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It shall be composed of the Convention Moderator, who shall act as chairman, the Moderator Elect, and the other members as hereinbefore provided. The Convention shall also elect at each annual meeting a member-at-large to serve for a term of three years. Other members shall include the duly elected moderator and one other representative of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, and the four associations in Alabama and Northwest Florida, and the presidents of auxiliary organizations. The chairmen of the Standing Committees of the Convention shall also be voting members of the Board. The moderators shall serve concurrently with their term of office as moderator, and the other representatives shall be elected for a term of one year. While the Southeast Convention continues as a semi-autonomous body under the Board of Home Missions, that body shall have the right to appoint a national staff person to serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.

To paragraph 2 of Article 21 concerning membership on the Board shall be added the following sentence:

"The president of Southern Union College shall be a member of the Board ex officio, without vote."

The fifth (5th) paragraph which now reads: "The Board shall meet at least once every three months at a time and place of their mutual agreement. Special meetings may be called by the Moderator—" shall be amended to read:

"The Board shall meet at least twice a year at a time and place of their mutual agreement. Special meetings may be called"

Report Of The Woman's Fellowship

"What Doth the Lord Require of Thee?" has been a soul-searching topic for the Woman's Fellowship this year, and since last April, when the women of the Southeast Convention asked me to serve out the term of the president, Mrs. Arnold Slater, I have been trying to find the answer for myself. It is never easy to fill the shoes of a person as efficient as Mrs. Slater, but with the very needed help of Miss Annie Campbell, the vice-presidents, and the women of the convention, I have been at least able to catch up and find out some of the things I needed to do.

One of my important duties was to attend the meetings of the board of directors of the convention. I have attended three this year. It has been helpful to me to attend these meetings and to work with our superintendent and members who are so dedicated to their tasks.

I prepared the Woman's Fellowship yearbook with the help of the area chairman, who prepared the materials. I then attended the Alabama-West Florida retreat, some of the associations, and Pilgrim Fellowship meetings, where I spoke on various subjects, as Southern Union College, Pilgrim Fellowship, United Church Herald, Southeast News, Church Builders Club, and Social Action, and with every chance plugging for the Woman's Fellowship.

After the fall meetings, I began to make my plans to attend the Mid-Winter meeting at Buckhill Falls, Pa. This was a wonderful experience. I met many new and important people, and I was happy to meet and chat with some of my friends again. I say "thank you" to the women of the convention for making it possible for me to go to this meeting and especially to our efficient treasurer, Miss Dora Brackin.

Soon after I returned from the Mid-Winter meeting, I attended the executive planning session at Atlanta, where we discussed the materials that were presented to us at the Mid-Winter meeting.

We also planned rallies and retreats, and appointed committees for the new year. This was a very successful meeting. It was good to have 13 of our convention officers present.

Before I was hardly settled at home again, I was on my way to the Southeast regional meeting at Bricks, N. C.

Report Of The Pilgrim Fellowship

For the year of 1958 the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship sent four representatives to the joint National Council of PF/YF in New York City. We also sent two representatives to a senior high conference at Bricks, N. C. We had fifteen churches participating in the World Day for Christ, and a total of \$372.30 was turned in to the Atlanta office of the convention. The money will be used for Our Christian World Mission. A number of local PF's contributed to Southern Union College for library books and on a scholarship fund, plus some memberships to the Church Builder's Club.

We held our annual Southeast Convention at Lanett Church February 28-March 1. Although E and R young people and leaders have been present at our SEC-PF conferences before, this was the first time since the official union of the two denominations that they have met together. For the first time, also, all of the states in SEC-PF were represented. We had a high attendance of 200 young people.

Respectfully submitted,
Melvyn Roquemore

The Eastern Summer School for Ministers will be held at the Deering Conference Center, Hillsboro, N. H., July 8 to 29. Ministers interested in attending should contact Superintendent J. H. Lightbourne Jr., 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta 8, Ga.

The fellowship with friends on the trip and at the meeting will long be remembered. We were happy to meet our national moderator and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Phillips, and hear them tell of their experiences in Africa, and to hear our leaders discuss "Our Christian World Mission as One." The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Judson King of Bricks made us want to stay longer and to return again soon.

This has been a happy year for me, and I pray that I have been able to contribute a little to the work of our women. I cannot forget that a leader is no stronger than the people who back her. That strength is the local church, and it must begin with you. "What Doth the Lord Require of Thee?"

Jettie Logan (Mrs. G. F.)

Report Of Church Survey And Aid Committee

The purpose and program of this committee is suggested by its title, "Survey and Aid."

The committee cannot recommend to the board of directors that financial assistance be given to any church until it is satisfied with the worthwhileness and need of the request.

At one time or another, all of our churches have needed aid, but it is always with a sense of triumph and pride when they arrive at the time when they venture forth in faith and "go it alone."

Every expenditure represents sacrificial giving, therefore churches requesting aid should thoroughly explore and develop their own potential first.

Funds given to established churches may exhaust the resources and new churches calling for support may be unable to promote their program when it is most urgent.

We must be enterprising enough to provide churches for our people in the larger towns and cities. In recent years, we did this in Nashville and Knoxville and already those churches contribute generously to Our Christian World Mission.

Our newest church is Russell Woods, Phenix City, Ala., and we are making a study of Huntsville, Ala., in cooperation with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Slater, Chairman
Church Survey & Aid Committee
Southeast Convention

New Filmstrips Available

Two new film strips, with good reading script, are available at the Southeast Convention Office, 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta 8, Ga.:

"JOAO'S LIFE AT SCHOOL"

The story of a teen-age West African boy living and attending school in Angola, Portuguese, West Africa.

"WITNESS IN MEXICO"

An extremely interesting narrative of the real Mexico of today—American Board of Foreign Missions.

These films may be obtained for use by writing the convention office.

God gives us relatives; thank God we can choose our friends.

—Addison Mizner

Christian Education Committee Report

The Christian Education Committee in its two-day meeting discussed many things. Plans were made and discussed for Pilgrim Fellowship summer conferences. Out of this discussion grew the idea for a Job Analysis for Summer Conferences, giving the duties and responsibilities of various members of the staff of a summer conference. Details for such a pamphlet are under way.

Pilgrim Fellowship programs were reviewed and the question of program materials for a junior group (grades 5 and 6) arose. The result was an article in the *Southeast News* giving available materials for this age. A growing concern of the churches and this committee is the young adults of our churches. There is a need for a broad but loosely organized program for these young people in our churches.

We were thrilled to have nine from the convention attending the National Conference on Christian Education at Purdue last summer. The convention committee then arranged for Walter Dobler, head of our church's Department of Adult Work and Family Life, to meet with them in planning a Leadership Training Conference for the Southeast Convention, similar to the one enjoyed at Purdue. Much time and effort was spent in planning the program in all its many details to be held at Rock Eagle March 9-13, 1959, with three of our national leaders as participants. In spite of all our work, this conference had to be cancelled because of lack of response on the part of the people in our churches. We regret that this seemed to be planned for the wrong time for our people to attend. However, we feel that such a training conference is necessary for our area, and hope that, with your help, another can be planned for the future at a time when it will be convenient for you.

National Family Week will be observed May 3-10, 1959, and it is hoped that many churches will help families to face their responsibilities to God and to themselves. The theme this year is: "The Biblical Basis of the Family," for from the Biblical viewpoint the family is part of the plan and purpose of God. Special services and recognition of families might be a part of the church's celebration of this important week.

As your chairman, I have enjoyed

Report Of The Committee On Evangelism

The Reverend John B. Crutcher was elected chairman of the Committee on Evangelism at the last annual meeting of the Convention. Several months later he accepted a call to a church in Illinois, so the committee was without a chairman. In January the Board of Directors of the Convention asked me to fill out the unexpired term as chairman.

The previous year a suggested program of evangelism for the whole of a year, along with a selected bibliography of materials for use in evangelism, was sent to each of the churches. It is hoped that the ministers and churches have made use of them. At various times additional materials and suggestions have been sent to ministers and churches either from the Convention office of the Department of Evangelism.

Dr. Robert W. Spike, then Director of the Department of Evangelism of the Congregational Christian Churches, was the guest lecturer at the Minister's Convocation last May. Dr. Spike led the ministers in discussions on the aims and methods of evangelism. The Committee on Evangelism met with Dr. Spike while he was in the area.

Ministers are encouraged to read and study the materials presented in "The Evangelism Advocate," which is published by the joint Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Committee on Evangelism of the United Church. The first issue came out in February of this year and I personally feel it is one of the best publications that comes to my desk.

While statistics do not always tell the whole story, they can be very indicative. As of December 31, 1957, the Churches of the Southeast Convention reported a total membership of 9,460. This represented an increase of 317 over the previous year. As of December 31, 1958, the reported membership of the churches was 9,582. This repre-

representing this committee at meetings of the Board of Directors, Summer Conference planning sessions, the Southeast Regional Meeting, and others. I have enjoyed working as your chairman and appreciate the help and inspiration of Miss Campbell, and other members of the committee.

Shirley N. Berry, Chairman

Committee On Ministry And Churches

The Committee on Ministry and Churches has had a fairly quiet year. It has been concerned almost entirely with the training of ministers. Since the Spring of 1954, the Committee, together with The Southern Union College, has planned two convocations for ministers each year. The Fall Convocation was held November 18-20. The sessions were held in the church building of the Wadley Congregational Christian Church and the ministers and their wives were housed by the people of Wadley. Approximately thirty were in attendance. Courses offered were "The Ministry" by Rev. Nathaniel Guptill, Associate Minister of the General Council and Director of the Department of Ministry, and "Old Testament" by Rev. Carroll Lewis.

Plans are being made for the Spring Convocation. This one will be held at the College May 5-7. Ministers are urged to make plans to attend this session.

A. R. Van Cleave
Committee Chairman

The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

—Theodore Roosevelt

sents an increase of only 122. At least, it is an increase. But we can and ought to do much more.

Your Committee on Evangelism recommends that:

(1) We accept a convention goal of a 5% net increase in membership in 1959. This would put the total membership over 10,000 by December 31, 1959.

(2) That each church engage in a major evangelism effort during the year, giving special attention to a Lay Visitation Program to secure new members.

(3) That each church develop individual and family devotions, prayer groups, and a prayer movement throughout the local church. Use "Daily Devotions" and other helpful books to deepen the spiritual life, along with the Bible.

Carroll W. Lewis
Acting Chairman
The Committee on Evangelism



REV. C. W. BALDWIN

Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, minister of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama, is the Chaplain for the Seventh Annual Sessions of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches.

Mr. Baldwin came to Pilgrim Church in 1957 following pastorates at Indianapolis, Dunkirk and Huntingdon, Indiana. He served as a Chaplain with the U. S. Armed Forces during World War II.

Report Of The Committee On Christian Social Action

The Christian Social Action Committee of the Southeast Convention is one year old. Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, met with our Committee last spring during the Annual Meeting to offer his suggestions concerning the task, methods, and procedures for the group.

Materials on Christian Action in Society were made available to each Association last Fall. We hope these materials continue to find their way into local church groups concerned with the development of a Christian social conscience adequate to guide our churches in these times of rapid change.

We urge the establishment of Christian Social Action Committees in the Association, Conferences and local

The Southern Union College

The first word in this report, my second to the Southeast Convention, is "THANKS". You will never know how encouraged all of us at the college are as a result of the increased support of the churches, men's and women's groups and individuals which the college has received. The exact figures will be given at the Convention meeting.

Many churches have placed the college in their annual budgets on the basis of \$1.00 per year per member. We are most grateful for this support and it will especially aid the college in the attempt to gain accreditation.

Several changes and developments are taking place in the physical aspect of the campus. In the first place, the Field House, which was a project of the men of the churches of East Alabama and West Georgia, is nearing completion. Already in use, it adds a lot to the efficiency of those especially interested in athletics.

Funds are now being sought to construct an addition to Pilgrim Hall. The cost is estimated to be around \$12,500.00 and over \$11,000.00 has already been received. The cost of the room furnishings will be \$350.00 per room, and sponsors for the eight rooms are urgently requested.

Ground has already been broken for the two new tennis courts. Several matches have been scheduled under the direction of Coach Nofflet Williams, and we hope to have the courts completed within thirty days. If you play tennis and are in the area, drop by for a game.

While enrollment for the Spring Quarter is not complete at this time, it looks as if the final figure will exceed that of 1958. This has been true of each of the quarters for the 1958-1959

Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 31. The Baccalaureate Sermon will be at 11:00 A. M. and the

churches.

A word of appreciation is given to the members of our committee who have worked within their own areas to bring the light of Christian faith to bear upon the social issues of our day.

W. Raymond Berry
Chairman



REV. CARL J. LANDES

Rev. Carl J. Landes, professor of Religion and the Social Sciences at the Southern Union College and an ordained Congregational Christian clergyman, is the host pastor for the annual sessions of the Convention.

Mr. Landes has been serving as interim pastor for the East Tallassee Congregational Christian Church since Rev. D. Herbert Long resigned to become pastor of Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, Alabama.

Commencement exercises at 2:30 P. M., both in the auditorium at Elder Hall. All of our friends are cordially invited to witness the graduation of the largest class (48) in the history of the college.

The greatest need of the college at the moment is for adequate funds, first for general expenses, second for scholarship and work aid needs, and third for the building program. It is hoped that construction of the library may be started this summer but it will necessitate that funds be either on hand or promised.

Enrollment prospects for 1959-1960 look very good. The three dormitories are now aided by the five trailers and it is anticipated that all will be filled for the fall quarter. Top notch High School graduates and other qualified people, are urged to apply for entrance.

Walter A. Graham
President